kow, Wuchang, and Hanyang, or, as they are known collectively, Wuhan. The province of which these three constitute the metropolis is Hupeh ("North of the [T'ung-t'ing] Lake"). Wuhan forms a natural commercial center, and so huge is the Yangtze that at high water ocean-going steamers make it a port of call, nearly six hundred miles from the coast. East of Hupeh and Kiangsi lie the two provinces of Anhui and Kiangsu, both of them spanning the river.

From the point where it leaves the gorges, the Yangtze is flanked by fertile alluvial plains of varying width and of its own building. At Chinkiang, about a hundred and fifty miles from its mouth, these broaden out into a delta and are being steadily extended by the silt-laden waters. Kiangsu possesses, as mig be expected, several large cities—among them Nanking, several occasions the capital of China, Soochow, Wusih, Ch'an^ chow, Yangchow, and the modern commercial metropolis of China Shanghai. Shanghai, the result of the ocean-borne trade with thj Occident, sprawls along the Huang-p'u, a small river which emj| ties into the mouth of the Yangtze. In the Kiangsu delta ar< several lakes, among them the T'ai Hu. From the gorges eastwa ! the Yangtze and its main tributaries lend themselves to navij tion. For this purpose they are supplemented, especially on t delta, by an elaborate network of canals. The Grand Canal, cc necting the South and the North, begins at Hangchow and rL northward, originally to the outskirts of Peking (Peiping Through traffic is no longer able to traverse its entire lengi but sections of it are still in use, in some places very extensively i

South of the mouth of the Yangtze, the coast of China beco^
rugged and deeply indented and the main mountain ranges ruk-
parallel to the coast. The cultivated land lies in the valleys c
on artificially terraced hillsides. The ancient rocks which con-
pose most of the region have been much eroded. Subsidence of
the coast has given rise to islands and estuaries. The coastal
region, divided politically into the four provinces Chekiang,
Fukien, Kwangtung, and Kwangsi, is separated from the basin
of the Yangtze by barriers of hills, most of them averaging from
three to six thousand feet in height. Many of the hills are cov-